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January 12, 2018

To: Public Service Commission of South Carolina

RE: DOCKET NO. 2017-292-WS

From: Roy L Dowd

RECEIVED

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**PSC SC
CLERK'S OFFICE**

Leesville, SC 29070

To Whom It May Concern:

I am voicing my objection to the application by Carolina Water Services Inc. of an increase in the rates being charged for our water services.

I am a current homeowner and have been since 2007. We as residents are already being overcharged for our water by CWS Inc. compared to other areas. When I moved here the base charge that I was paying was around \$11.00-\$12.00 and since then has actually doubled. As a matter of fact, we even had a rate increase within the last two years.

I own two rental properties in other towns and pay the water bills for both of those properties. One is a duplex with two families. The water bill for this property averages only \$24.00 per month and the base fee includes 3000 gallons of water. My other property is a family of four. I pay an average of \$60.00 every two months. The rates are charged bi-monthly and the base rate is only \$18.00 for up to 6000 gallons of water with a uniform rate of \$2.25 per 1000 gallons. There is no reason that there should be such a big difference with what I pay at my other properties compared to what I pay at my main residence with CWS for my water which averages \$65.00 a month. Our base fee does not even include any water allowance before the Residential Commodity Charge is assessed.

I personally have fought continuously about being overcharged for my water usage on a regular basis and actually have had to force them to change my water meter twice due to faulty water meter readings. I would actually check my water meter readings after the meter reader read it and would be charged a completely different amount on my monthly bill. I have a family of four and was being charged for over 14,000 gallons of water a month which was a totally ridiculous amount of water for us to use. After changing our meter our water usage went down to an average of 4000 gallons a month. This in turn causes an increase in our sewer bill so we have to then take the time to get that bill adjusted as well. It is a constant battle.

Again, there is no reason that we as homeowners should have to incur an increase in our water due to the fact that CWS has regular maintenance on their equipment and lines which we are already paying way too much for already. For those of us who are on a fixed income this increase is putting even more of a financial hardship on us and we are already struggling to pay the current ridiculous charges. I feel that I am being forced to discontinue receiving water from CWS because of their astronomical fees and have a private well dug on my property. The initial charge to have a private well put in will put a huge financial burden on me and my family. I should not even have to consider this, but with water utility increases every couple of years I am not being given a choice.

In closing, I am requesting that the Commission hold a public hearing in Leesville, SC, Lexington County, so that we may be able to voice our concerns over this absurd increase request.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion as a concerned resident and taxpayer.

Sincerely,



Roy L Dowd

Email address: _____